

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCCT-01 IO-13 ACDA-07

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P R 211122Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5783

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

US MISSION NATO 936

USEC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL SUE MADRID 3964

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: ANTI-GOVT SENTIMENT AT FRANCO'S COMMEMORATIVE MASS

REF: MADRID 3876

1. DURING THE COMMEMORATIVE MASS AT THE VALLEY OF THE FALLEN
MAY 20 FOR THE SIX MONTHS ANNIVERSARY OF FRANCO'S DEATH, THE
BUNKER WAS OUT IN FORCE AND SOME ATTEMPTED AT THE END TO TURN
THE RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES INTO AN ANTI GOVT DEMONSTRATION,
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INSPIRED IN PART, NO DOUBT BY THE GOVT'S DECISION TO REFUSE

PERMISSION FOR THE DEMONSTRATION REQUESTED BY THE
NATIONAL VETERAN'S CONFEDERATION FOR THE PLAZA DE ORIENTE (REFTEL).

2. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE AFTERNOON CEREMONIES WERE
ATTENDED BY SOME 5,000 PERSONS, INCLUDING FRANCO'S WIDOW
DAUGHTER AND VARIOUS GRANDCHILDREN, PRESIDENT ORIOLS OF
THE COUNCIL OF STATE (THE CEREMONIES WERE, HOWEVER, NON-
OFFICIAL), AND OF COURSE JOSE ANTONIO GIRON, THE
LEADER OF THE NATIONAL VETERANS CONFEDERATION. MANY IN
THE CROWD WORE THE FALANGIST BLUE SHIRT.

3. IT WAS AT THE END OF THE CEREMONIES, WHILE THOSE
ATTENDING WERE LEAVING THE BASILICA, THAT THE
CROWD BEGAN CALLING ON THE GOVT TO RESIGN AND PICKED UP
SUCH RHYTHMIC CHANTS AS "FRAGA RESIGN, THE PEOPLE AREN'T
WITH YOU" AND THE EQUIVALENT OF "UNITED IN OUR BUNKER WE
STAND". THOUGH SOME JOURNALISTS WERE THREATENED, WE
UNDERSTAND THERE WERE NO REALLY SERIOUS INCIDENTS.
STABLER

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